

Pregnancy Testing

The availability of legal therapeutic abortions in California in the last few years has brought a corresponding increase in the request for rapid, early and accurate pregnancy testing. Health departments, free clinics and physician's offices are daily performing scores of these tests in an attempt to assist women who may have a problem pregnancy or unwanted pregnancy.

Several papers written recently on the immunologic slide and tube tests for pregnancy point out a few of the conditions that may cause false negative or false positive tests such as proteinuria, hyperthyroidism, many of the psychotropic drugs and apparently, use of heroin. These studies were all conducted by trained laboratory personnel under optimum conditions. However, today these tests are often being done by relatively unskilled people. The literature also reports that many of the currently used pregnancy tests go through unexplained periods of unreliability.

Attention must be drawn to the tremendous psychological impact of these tests, and women must be told that they are not 100 percent accurate. A false negative test may mean postponing seeking a therapeutic abortion until it is too late and a false positive test may mean needless heartache, unnecessary operation, and even the possibility of suicide.

Because of the large number of relatively untrained personnel interpreting these tests, because these tests may go through periods of unreliability and especially because of the enormous psycho-social impact surrounding these tests, strict attention must be paid to obtaining accurate results. Adequate training and supervision of ALL people performing these tests, the use of two immunologic tests together (preferably a tube and slide test) and a confirming pelvic examination whenever possible should be done.

MRS. GEORGIANNA SELSTAD
*Maternal & Adolescent Health Coordinator
Ventura County Health Department*

Syphilis and Gonorrhea Therapy

Syphilis therapy calls for low dosages of antibiotic over a long period, while gonorrhea therapy calls for high dosages for a short time. Long-acting repository penicillin is ideal for syphilis, but contraindicated for gonorrhea.

Syphilis

A total of 4.8 million units benzathine penicillin G, administered as 2.4 million units (1.2 in each buttock) at a seven-day interval, will cure syphilis. Patients allergic to penicillin are given 30 to 40 grams of appropriate oral antibiotics over a 10 to 14 day period (tetracycline derivatives, erythromycin).

Gonorrhea

The physician has several antibiotic choices for therapy of gonorrhea, none of which give universally satisfactory results. By injection, aqueous procaine penicillin, cephaloridine or kanamycin are frequent choices. Orally, ampicillin, demethylchlortetracycline, doxycycline, and tetracycline give good results.

Injection therapy should provide high blood levels for 48 hours in males and 72 to 96 hours in females. Best results with oral therapy are obtained from three to four day regimens for males and four to five days for females. Addition of probenecid improves response to penicillin therapy. Long-acting benzathine penicillin G does not provide satisfactory levels and should not be used.

Failure

Most venereal disease clinicians believe that lack of response to treatment is usually "patient failure," not therapeutic. "Ping-pong" reinfection makes epidemiologic therapy on all sex contacts important, both for community control and for cure of the individual case. With oral therapy, patients may overlook the prescribed times for multiple doses or share their medication with contacts and friends.

Limitations of penicillin include fear of anaphylactic reaction in sensitive patients, "relatively" resistant strains, and failure to cure non-specific urethritis (NSU). Tetracycline and its related products are needed for NSU. Tetracycline is contraindicated in pregnancy and is adversely effected by antacids, including milk and juices. Doxycycline and demethylchlortetracycline appear superior to tetracycline and require less frequent administration. Tetracyclines by injection are not well tolerated by patients because of injection-site pain.

The following products and dosages are currently successful therapy for gonorrhea (uncomplicated male urethritis):

Injection

- Aqueous procaine penicillin, 4.8 million units (divided in each hip) probenecid, 5 grams may be added—one gram $\frac{1}{2}$ hour prior to injection, then one gram q.i.d.
- Cephaloridine, 2 grams
- Kanamycin, 2 grams
- Tetracycline, 250 mg. x 2

Oral

- Ampicillin, 3 grams. Given over 3 days: One gram stat; then $\frac{1}{2}$ gram at 4 and 8 hours; then $\frac{1}{2}$ gram b.i.d. (Females given $\frac{1}{2}$ gram b.i.d. one additional day—total, 4 grams.)
- Demethylchlortetracycline, 2700 mg. Given over 4 days: 600 mg stat, 300 mg at 8 hours, then 300 mg b.i.d. x 3
- Doxycycline, 800 mg. (200 mg stat, 100 mg b.i.d. x 3). (Females given 100 mg b.i.d. for two additional days—total, 1200 mg.)
- Tetracycline, 10 grams (1.5 grams stat; then $\frac{1}{2}$ gram q.i.d. x 4).

W. A. KETTERER, M.D., M.P.H.

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Current Street Language for Various Drugs That Are Abused

The use and abuse of psychoactive drugs is a problem of grave concern to medical and public health officials. Reports of increased use among adolescents has led to the establishment of varied forms of treatment facilities, each employing established as well as oft-times innovative modalities. However, effective intervention treatment and social rehabilitation programs have been few, partly because of difficulty in communication. A major component in the use of psychoactive drugs has been the development of a "drug slang."

It is difficult to make any generalizations about the words used, in that the terms are constantly changing and a listing is never up to date. Communities many times also have their own words for drugs, and these terms do not carry the same meaning in other localities. However, there are some terms that seem to be used widely and frequently:

A's	amphetamine
acid	LSD, d-Lysergic acid diethylamide tartrate
Acapulco gold	high-grade marijuana
angel dust	DMT or PCP sprinkled over parsley or tobacco
bag	packet of drugs
barbs	barbiturates
bennies	Benzedrine® (brand of amphetamine sulfate)
blue angels	} amobarbital sodium
bluebirds	
blue heaven	
blue devils	
blues	
blue velvet	paregoric in combination with amphetamine or antihistamine such as Pyribenzamine® (brand of tripeleennamine)